

# Portland Urban District Council



## A N N U A L                      R E P O R T

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the

Y E A R 1 9 5 4



E. J. Gordon Wallace M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# REPORT

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT

Council Offices,  
PORTLAND.

July, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Portland Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Report for the year 1954 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District.

There were no outbreaks of serious infectious disease during the year and no deaths occurred from notifiable diseases. It was a quiet year for Measles only seven cases being notified, whereas there were 71 cases of Whooping Cough. No cases of poliomyelitis, either paralytic or non-paralytic, were notified during the year.

The standardised Birth Rate for the year (20.49 per 1,000 population) was slightly higher than that of the previous year (18.02) while the standardised Death Rate (10.65 per 1,000 population) was also higher than that of the previous year (8.5). Live births exceeded the number of deaths by 66.

Once more it is a pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has invariably been extended to me throughout the year. I am also most grateful to my fellow officials and to the Council staff generally for their helpful co-operation. In particular Mr. Bolt - your Sanitary Inspector - and Miss J. Hall and Miss J. Bridle - part-time clerical assistants have done much to promote the efficiency of the Public Health Department.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

Radnor Wallace

Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department Staff

1. Medical Officer of Health:  
E. J. Gordon Wallace, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
  2. Sanitary Inspector:  
Mr. H. R. A. Bolt, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
  3. Clerks (part-time)  
Miss J. Hall resigned 24th July, 1954, and  
Miss J. Bridle commenced 30th August, 1954.
  4. Sanitary Labourer:  
Mr. C. Otter.
- 

GENERAL STATISTICS

|  |         |             |
|--|---------|-------------|
| Area (land and internal water)   | .. ..   | 2,905 acres |
| Population (mid 1954)  |         |             |
| Estimated by Registrar General   | . ..    | 15,630      |
| No. of houses inhabited at 1st April, 1955<br>(exclusive of Government properties) | . ..    | 2,614       |
| Rateable Value at 1st April, 1955  | .. ..   | £72,767     |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st<br>April, 1955                                | .. .. . | £292        |

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:

|  |         |       |
|--|---------|-------|
| Total Births                                 | .. .. . | 179   |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population              | .. ..   | 11.45 |
| X Comparability Factor (births)              | .. ..   | 1.79  |
| Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population | .       | 20.49 |

Live Births: 177

|                                      | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate                           | 87           | 82             | 169          |
| Illegitimate                         | <u>6</u>     | <u>2</u>       | <u>8</u>     |
| TOTAL                                | 93           | 84             | 177          |
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population | ..           | ..             | 11.32        |

Still Births: 2

|  | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate                                       | -            | 2              | 2            |
| Illegitimate                                     | <u>-</u>     | <u>-</u>       | <u>-</u>     |
| TOTAL  | -            | 2              | 2            |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..         |              |                | 0.127        |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births |              |                | 11.17        |



DEATHS: 111

|                                    | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|                                    | 61           | 50             | 111          |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population .. | ..           | ..             | 7.1          |
| X Comparability Factor (Deaths) .. | ..           | ..             | 1.51         |
| Standardised Death Rate ..         | ..           | ..             | 10.65        |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

|              | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate   | 6            | 3              | 9            |
| Illegitimate | -            | -              | -            |
|              | <hr/>        | <hr/>          | <hr/>        |
| TOTAL        | 6            | 3              | 9            |

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:

|              | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate   | 3            | 3              | 6            |
| Illegitimate | -            | -              | -            |
|              | <hr/>        | <hr/>          | <hr/>        |
| TOTAL        | 3            | 3              | 6            |

Infant Mortality Rates:

|   |    |    |      |
|---|----|----|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births ..                  | .. | .. | 50.8 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births        |    |    | 53.3 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births .. | .. | .. | Nil  |
| Neo-Natal Mortality Rate ..                           | .. | .. | 33.8 |
| (1) Maternal Mortality Rate ..                        | .. | .. | 5.5  |

X Comparability Factor This is worked out for each District by the Registrar General. Its object is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and its use enable us to obtain standardised birth and death rates which are more fairly comparable and more accurate than the crude rates.

(1) This Maternal Mortality Rate refers to one patient only - the interval between the maternal condition and death being stated to exceed 12 months.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES - PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT - 1954

|   | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory              | 1            | -              | 1            |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other                    | -            | -              | -            |
| 3. Syphilitic disease                     | -            | -              | -            |
| 4. Diphtheria                             | -            | -              | -            |
| 5. Whooping Cough                         | -            | -              | -            |
| 6. Meningococcal infections               | -            | -              | -            |
| 7. Acute poliomyelitis                    | -            | -              | -            |
| 8. Measles                                | -            | -              | -            |
| 9. Other infectious and parasitic disease | -            | -              | -            |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach           | 3            | 1              | 4            |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus    | -            | -              | -            |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast            | -            | 2              | 2            |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus            | -            | -              | -            |
| 14. Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms | 5            | 7              | 12           |

# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES (continued)

|  | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia                  | 1            | -              | 1            |
| 16. Diabetes                               | -            | -              | -            |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system     | 6            | 5              | 11           |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina               | 10           | 3              | 13           |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease        | -            | -              | -            |
| 20. Other heart disease                    | 8            | 17             | 25           |
| 21. Other circulatory disease              | 1            | 2              | 3            |
| 22. Influenza                              | -            | -              | -            |
| 23. Pneumonia                              | 4            | 1              | 5            |
| 24. Bronchitis                             | 7            | 2              | 9            |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system   | -            | -              | -            |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum          | 2            | -              | 2            |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea     | -            | -              | -            |
| 28. Nephritis and ncphrosis                | 1            | -              | 1            |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate                | 2            | -              | 2            |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion        | -            | 1              | 1            |
| 31. Congenital malformations               | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 7            | 6              | 13           |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents                | -            | -              | -            |
| 34. All other accidents                    | 1            | -              | 1            |
| 35. Suicide                                | 1            | 2              | 3            |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war         | -            | -              | -            |
| TOTAL                                      | <u>61</u>    | <u>50</u>      | <u>111</u>   |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Infectious Disease notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:

|                         | <u>March</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>September</u> | <u>December</u> | <u>Total</u><br><u>1954</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever           | -            | 9           | 3                | 1               | 13                          |
| Whooping Cough          | 1            | 10          | 11               | 49              | 71                          |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |
| Non-paralytic do.       | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |
| Measles                 | -            | -           | 7                | -               | 7                           |
| Diphtheria              | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |
| Acute Pneumonia         | 1            | -           | -                | 2               | 3                           |
| Dysentery               | 5            | 2           | 2                | -               | 9                           |
| Smallpox                | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |
| Acute encephalitis      | -            | -           | -                | 1               | 1                           |
| Typhoid Fever           | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |
| Para-typhoid Fever      | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |
| Erysipelas              | 1            | -           | 1                | -               | 2                           |
| Meningococcal Infection | -            | 1           | -                | -               | 1                           |
| Food Poisoning          | -            | -           | -                | 1               | 1                           |
| Puerperal Pyrexia       | -            | -           | -                | -               | -                           |

## FOOD POISONING

One notification of food poisoning was received during the year.

## FOOD PREMISES

The number and description of the food premises in this area are as follows:-

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Grocers & Provision Shops         | 27 |
| Greengrocers & General Food Shops | 15 |
| Works Canteens & Hostels          | 2  |
| Cafe & Restaurants                | 11 |
| Wholesale Provisions              | 2  |
| Bakehouses                        | 8  |

The number and description of registered food premises in this area are as follows:-

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Meat Shops (Sausage making)              | 8 |
| Provision Shops (Cooked & Pressed Meats) | 4 |

There are 31 confectionery, cafes & restaurants, provisions and general shops registered for the sale of ice-cream. No ice-cream is manufactured in the District and nearly all the retailed ice-cream is in wrapped or pre-packed form.

Improvements have been effected in many of the above shops by a constant supply of hot water and deep-freeze display cabinets. A constant supply of hot water is still not available in some food shops but progress generally is being maintained.

## MILK SUPPLY

### Dairy or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

| <u>No. on</u><br><u>Register</u> | <u>Inspections</u><br><u>made</u> | <u>Number of Contraventions</u>    |                                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                  |                                   | <u>Found during</u><br><u>Year</u> | <u>Remedied</u><br><u>During year</u> |
| 7                                | 17                                | -                                  | -                                     |

All the above are retailers of designated milk.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1954, came into operation in Portland on the 1st April, 1954.

## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

No special "Clean Food Campaign" or other special educational activity took place during the year.

## CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned food is disposed of at the Council's Wide Street Depot under controlled tipping.

## SPECIAL EXAMINATION OF STOCK

100 doz. sausage rolls were condemned at the N.A.A.F.I. Bakery Stores at Castletown, Portland.



## LICENSED PREMISES

Visits and inspections have been carried out to most of the licensed Hotel and Inn premises in the District. Constant hot water for glass washing is provided in every case and in addition the use of detergents is general. Additional sanitary accommodation for females has been provided in one instance.

## WATER SUPPLY

All houses in the District have a main water supply pumped from the Friar Waddon borehole where the supply is chlorinated.

Twenty-nine samples of the public water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported on as follows:-

| <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Suspicious</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 21                  | 1                 | 7                     | 29           |

## HOUSING ACT, 1936

Under Section 11 of this Act, two houses were represented as being individually unfit for human habitation, namely:-

14 King Street  
165 High Street

Specifications of work to be carried out were accepted by the Council in respect of the following properties:-

141, 143 & 145 High Street  
2 Belle Vue Terrace.

The Undertaking given by the owner in respect of 49 Reforne was cancelled on completion of a satisfactory specification of works.

## HOUSING PROGRESS

| <u>Council Dwellings</u> | <u>In process<br/>of erection</u> | <u>Completed<br/>during<br/>1954</u> | <u>Completed<br/>since end<br/>of war</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Temporary                | Nil                               | Nil                                  | 40  |
| Permanent                |                                   |                                      |   |
| Traditional Type         | -                                 | -                                    | 100                                       |
| Non-Traditional Type     | <u>Nil</u>                        | <u>22</u>                            | <u>273</u>                                |
|                          | <u>Nil</u>                        | <u>22</u>                            | <u>413</u>                                |

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 269

One license was issued to station and use a caravan during the year, to Mr. P. A. Brown of 36 Weston St. for a period of six months.



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47  
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

A number of visits were paid during the year to persons whose conditions werethought might make it necessary for action to be taken under these Acts but no formal action did in fact require to be taken.

It was not necessary for me to take any action under the powers delegated to me by the Council relating to Section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS, 1953

It was not necessary for me to issue any notices on behalf of the Council under these regulations.

PET ANIMALS ACT

During the year the Council appointed Mr. F. Horner the Local Inspector of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as an Honorary Officer of the Council for the purposes of the Pet Animals Act, 1951.

During the year one Pet Shop was registered under this Act.

LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS

The modern electric cabinet for the humane destruction of cats and dogs presented to the Council by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is available at the Council's Wide Street Depot on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m.

This service has been much appreciated and during the year 87 dogs, 119 cats and 16 kittens were humanely destroyed.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

| <u>Premises</u>   | <u>Number<br/>on<br/>Register</u> | <u>Number of</u>  |                            |                                 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
|   |                                   | <u>Inspection</u> | <u>Written<br/>Notices</u> | <u>Occupiers<br/>Prosecuted</u> |
| (i) Factories in which secs 1,2,3 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities .....                     | 29                                | 59                | 7                          | -                               |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authorities.               | 40                                | 127               | 4                          | -                               |
| (iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 0                                 | 0                 | 0                          | -                               |
| TOTAL   | 69                                | 186               | 11                         | -                               |

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

| <u>Particulars</u>               | <u>No. of cases in which defects were found</u> |                 |                                   |                          | <u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u> |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
|                                  | <u>Found</u>                                    | <u>Remedied</u> | <u>Referred To H.M. Inspector</u> | <u>By H.M. Inspector</u> |   |
| Want of cleanliness .....        | 4   | 4               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| Overcrowding.....                | -   | -               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| Unreasonable temperature....     | -   | -               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| Inadequate ventilation....       | -   | -               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors.. | 1   | -               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| Sanitary Conveniences.....       |   |                 |                                   |                          |   |
| (a) Insufficient                 | 1   | 4               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective.     | 4   | 4               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes.      | -   | -               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| Other offences against the Act   | 8   | 8               | -                                 | -                        | -   |
| TOTAL                            | 17  | 16              | -                                 | -                        | -   |

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With few exceptions the water carriage system is in general use in the District. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. The disposal is by means of three outfalls to the sea.

There are twelve buildings drained into cesspools.  
Two have pail closets.  
Three buildings have septic and filter tanks.  
In two instances premises are drained into natural fissures.

SHOPS ACT

Number of inspections made under the Shops Act - 93  
No exemption certificates were granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Number on Register .. ..         | 69  |
| Number of inspections made .. .. | 186 |
| Number of Notices .. ..          | 11  |
| Number of defects found .. ..    | 17  |
| Number of defects remedied .. .. | 16  |

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Total number of complaints received .. ..      | 96   |
| Total number of visits and inspections made .. | 1773 |

### Nature of Inspection

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc. in course of abatement .. .. | 365 |
| Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases ..                                | 21  |
| Premises disinfected .. .. .  | 4   |
| Visits in connection with Infestation .. ..                                     | 21  |
| Premises disinfested .. .. .  | 21  |
| Visits to cowsheds and pig stys .. .. .   | 48  |
| Visits to food preparing shops, canteens, restaurants, etc. .. .. .             | 97  |
| Visits to fish frying shops .. .. .   | 40  |
| Visits to bakehouses .. .. .  | 58  |
| Visits to meat shops .. .. .  | 65  |
| Visits to factories .. .. .   | 186 |
| Visits in connection with rats destruction ..                                   | 94  |
| Miscellaneous visits, interviews with property owners, etc. .. .. .             | 54  |
| Visits under Shops Act .. .. .  | 93  |
| Drain tests carried out - Water .. .. .   | 32  |
| Smoke .. .. .   | 17  |
| Drains unstopped .. .. .  | 140 |
| Drainage visits .. .. .   | 56  |
| Premises cleansed .. .. .   | 1   |
| Accumulations removed .. .. .   | 1   |
| Number of Council houses inspected .. .. .                                      | 577 |

## REGULATED BUILDINGS

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Common Lodging Houses . . . . .  | - |
| Offensive Trades .. .. .         | 1 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. .. .. . | - |

Huts are used for seasonal occupation; they have a water supply, but no sewerage disposal system. Public conveniences are provided near the sites by the Local Authority.

## ICE-CREAM

|  |    |
|--|----|
| No. of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream .. .. . | 31 |
|--|----|

## FOOD CONDEMNED

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Meat .. .. .                  | 135 lbs. |
| Prepared Meat in tins .. .. . | 55 tins  |
| Fruit .. .. .                 | 131 tins |
| Vegetables .. .. .            | 45 tins  |
| Sausages .. .. .              | 18½ lbs. |
| Sausage rolls .. .. .         | 100 doz. |
| Soup .. .. .                  | 5 tins   |
| Fish .. .. .                  | (73½ lbs |
|                               | ( 7 tins |
| Cheese .. .. .                | 17 lbs.  |
| Milk & Cream .. .. .          | 9 tins   |
| Cereals .. .. .               | 14 lbs.  |
| Cat Food .. .. .              | 2 tins   |



## HOUSING

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses

Total number of dwelling houses inspected  
for housing defects (under Public Health  
or Housing Acts) .. .. . 109

No. of Inspections made for the purpose .. 222

### Remedy of defects - Informal Action

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered  
fit in consequence of informal action 83

### Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action

Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of  
the Housing Act, 1936:

No. of dwelling houses in respect of  
which notices were served requiring  
repairs .. .. . -

No. of dwelling houses which were  
rendered fit after service of formal  
notices:

(a) By owners .. .. . -

(b) By Local Authority in default of  
owners .. .. . -

### Proceedings under Public Health Acts

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which  
notices were served requiring defects to  
be remedied .. .. . 2

No. of dwelling houses in which defects  
were remedied after service of formal  
notices:

(a) By owners .. .. . 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of  
owners .. .. . -

### Proceedings under Secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

No. of separate tenements in respect of which  
Closing Orders were made .. .. . -

## OVERCROWDING

Overcrowding exists but to what extent is not known.  
Several cases of overcrowding have been abated by the granting  
of tenancies of Council houses by the Council.





